

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
APRIL 1, 2008 through JUNE 30, 2008

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 2nd quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/08 11pm : 30

On Portland Street in Springfield two victims were shot. One was shot in the head the other in the knee. Springfield Police Sergeant Trent Duda says this all happened after 5PM on Portland Street. No arrests so far and the victims have told detectives nothing about the incident. Both are expected to make full recoveries.

News 04/02/08 5am : 30

In Springfield, police spent hours looking for a suspect who rammed his car into one of their cruisers. It happened on Page Boulevard around 8PM. No one was hurt, but police attempted to pull him over several times, when he finally ditched his car on Stevens Street. Officers on scene told us the driver's wanted for several traffic violations, including refusing to stop.

News 04/02/08 6am : 30

A man is recovering after being stabbed several times outside the One Stop Convenience Store on Boston Road. Springfield Police Capt. John Barbieri says that a man was panhandling outside the store and was causing a disturbance. When the owner's adult son confronted him; the man allegedly produced a knife and stabbed him 3 times. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center with non life threatening injuries. Capt. Barbieri said a suspect has been identified. This suspect is known to police and they are searching for him.

News 04/02/08 12pm : 30

In South Hadley, seventeen-year-old Jack Robison was indicted Tuesday in Northampton Superior Court on three counts of malicious explosion and one count of willful placing of explosive near property. The charges stem from an incident in February where the State Police Bomb Squad and AFT Agents shut down Dartmouth Street in South Hadley. They removed the potentially dangerous chemicals from his mother's home. At that time Robison said that the dangerous chemicals were like plastic explosives and said that clay stuff that people blow up in action movies.

News 04/03/08 12pm : 30

A Holyoke man is under arrest after police had complaints of illegal drugs being sold out of his home. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott said police made a number of undercover purchases of cocaine at 675 High Street where 20 year old Luis Martinez was selling drugs in front of his two small children. Police went to the home to make the arrest in the afternoon but Martinez wasn't home. He later turned himself over to detectives. Martinez is being held on

\$10,000 dollar bail, after police confiscated cocaine and drug paraphernalia along with \$2,000 dollars in cash.

News **04/05/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The 21 year old victim of an early morning stabbing in downtown Springfield is alive despite being struck with a knife more than a dozen times on the corner the Chestnut and Taylor Street. Shortly after 1AM officers were putting up the crime scene tape. Police Captain John Baribieri says that just minutes earlier, a young man had been stabbed between 12 to 18 times. The victim was left for dead in the parking lot of the former "My Place" lounge on Taylor Street. He underwent emergency surgery at Baystate Medical Center; he's in stable condition in the intensive care unit. Right now police are looking for a Black or Hispanic man said to be about 20 years old, 5'7" weighing about 160 pounds.

News **04/06/08** **7am** **: 30**

A Holyoke man is clinging to life after being shot multiple times inside an apartment building. Holyoke Police Captain Arthur Monfette says his detectives were dispatched to 17 Hamilton Street around 2AM. 24 year old Derek Richard was riddled with bullets, shot in the chest, arm and side in the hallway of the building. He was rushed to Baystate Medical Center where doctors are working to save his life. Police were looking clues overnight and finding nothing; and are getting zero cooperation from potential witnesses, and even Richard. Now his injuries are considered life-threatening.

News **04/06/08** **7am** **: 30**

A former student at Clark University in Worcester has been arraigned for a murder that happened more than two decades ago. Prosecutors say Craig Minggia, now 47, stabbed 79 year old Lillian Johnson in July of 1984. Last year, Minggia was required to provide a DNA sample after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 12 year old girl. Prosecutors say the DNA linked him to the crime. He's pleaded not guilty.

News **04/06/08** **7am** **: 30**

In Lynn, police arrested six people and seized 84 kilos of cocaine. That's a street value of \$8.4 million dollars. Police report they saw a flat bed tractor trailer unit pull into a parking lot on Saturday. Officers claim the suspects were offloading cocaine and putting the substance into suitcase-like containers, then put into a pick-up truck. Police rounded up the suspects when they attempted to leave the parking lot.

News **04/08/08** **7am** **: 30**

A Pittsfield man was sentenced yesterday to one year in prison after being convicted of sexually assaulting a girl in 2005. Berkshire Superior Court officials say 20-year-old Christian Aragon must serve a year of probation after his release. He's also barred from having contact with the victim; who's now 17 years old.

News **04/09/08** **6pm** **: 30**

In Holyoke police arrested Felix Marrero who allegedly robbed a blockbuster video store in Holyoke. This after the suspect grabbed the officer's gun. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott says Felix Marrero of Springfield was arrested after police spotted him near 209 South Street in Holyoke. An officer saw a man walking fast with a backpack; the officer asked the man to identify himself; which he did. Police then asked Marrero what he had in his backpack, but he refused to say. A fight ensued after the officer grabbed the back pack, which contained several DVD's. Marrero managed to grab the officer's firearm, but was quickly sprayed with mace. Marrero faces numerous charges. He was also wanted on two open cases from early March on threats to murder charges.

News **04/11/08** **6am** **: 30**

Police have arrested a man in connection with the murder of a two year old girl in West Springfield in 2006. Members of the State Police and the Boston Police Department found 24 year old Michael Williams at his Dorchester home Wednesday. Williams was the boyfriend of Mia Figuero's mother. The toddler died from multiple blunt force traumas. Williams was arraigned yesterday in Springfield District Court and is being held without bail.

News **04/11/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Springfield, a man was shot in the abdomen and police continue to look for the shooter. It all happened around 7PM in front of 10 Niagra Street in downtown Springfield. Within minutes detectives from the Springfield Police Department had the area blocked-off; with bright orange cones marking places where evidence of the shooting were found. There is no word on the condition of the victim; he's being treated at Baystate Medical Center.

News **04/12/08** **9am** **: 30**

A 25 year old Springfield man is in serious condition after being stabbed in the chest. Police Captain John Barbieri told us, it happened outside 29 Cambridge Street just before 1:30AM. The victim isn't giving up any information to police. At this point, he's expected to be fine.

News **04/12/08** **6pm** **: 30**

In Agawam on Route 159 is where a hidden marijuana grow house was uncovered. On 1779 Main Street, Police say an East Longmeadow man and Goshen man had a pot growing operation. But after being in business for some time, allegedly growing pot, the operation went up in smoke Friday. State, local, and federal agents swarmed the garage, reportedly used to cultivate and distribute marijuana; it was filled with 103 mature pot plants, 44 grow lights and generators. Police nabbed one of the two men suspected of having the green thumb, 46-year-old Mark Danalis inside Friday. His East Longmeadow neighbor is not surprised after police seized cars, a motorcycle and a boat. His alleged accomplice, 55-year old Bryan Clarke was arrested at his home. Both held on high bail and due in court.

News **04/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Springfield about 1AM, gunshots were fired in the vicinity of the club Atlantic on Liberty Street, near the Springfield Plaza. A 21 year old Springfield man was shot in the foot. According to Captain John Barbieri police arrested six other people on a number of other charges; but not in connection with the shooting.

News **04/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

Two men were stabbed in Springfield after fighting with one another over a woman. The men allegedly fought each other with knives inside an apartment at 35 Telbar Street just before 2AM Sunday. Captain Barbieri said a 21 year old man underwent surgery for two serious stab wounds. The other man suffered superficial wounds to the arm. The woman was not injured.

News **04/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Springfield, a 21 year old man was shot on Liberty Street. This happen around one 1AM Sunday. Police Captain John Barbieri says the incident didn't end there. Police arrested six individuals on various charges but none relating to the shooting.

News **04/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

Springfield Police Detectives continue to investigate a shooting from over the weekend. A teenager was shot three times around 3AM Sunday. He is expected to survive. It happened at 43 Girard Avenue according to Police Captain John Barbieri. The victim has reportedly been uncooperative to help detectives track down the gunman.

News **04/14/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Police in Holyoke have made more arrests in their latest T-Bos operation. 86 people were arrested on charges ranging from drug possession, to assault and battery, to disorderly conduct. One of the lieutenants in charge of the narcotics unit for T-Bos says the operation is working. Chief Anthony Scott says out of the 86 people arrested during the operation, 31 of them were let out of jail on personal recognizance.

News **04/15/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A drug bust north of Springfield last year; has led to prison terms for two men. A federal jury in Providence convicted Adolfo Verdugo and Rafael Fernandez-Roque of conspiracy. Prosecutors say Verdugo drove 29 kilograms of cocaine from California to Springfield Fernandez-Roque drove from Providence to Springfield to pick up the drugs. They were arrested in May of 2007 after picking up the cocaine at a rest stop north of Springfield. They face sentences of ten years to life, when they are sentenced in August.

News **04/15/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A teenager from Springfield was sent to the hospital after the car he was driving hit a business. It happened around 6PM at 745 Memorial Avenue. Police on the scene told us the teen was on the way to his birthday party. They say speed was a factor and the business, Grand Central Vacuum suffered structural damage. Beyond the impact zone, the building cracked and shifted from the force of impact. One person was inside but wasn't hurt. The teen driver was taken to the hospital but appeared to be ok.

News **04/16/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Springfield, at Baystate Medical Center, a teenager is recovering after being shot while riding his bike in Forest Park. Witnesses told police 4 to 5 shots rang out just after 5pm, a 17 year old boy was riding near the corner of Johnson and Ranney Street when he was shot in the hand. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillon said a man wearing a grey hoody took off on foot after allegedly shooting the boy. Two hours later, the victim drove himself into Baystate Medical Center with his mom. The teen is being treated for his injury and is expected to be ok. Police are still looking for a suspect.

News **04/17/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Springfield, the man accused of killing mob boss Al Bruno plead guilty in Federal Court to gunning down the organized crime figure. Frankie Roche in a plea deal with the feds will at least be spared the death penalty. The mob boss Al Bruno was gunned down in a power struggle. With Frankie Roche pleading guilty to killing Al Bruno, federal prosecutors also revealed details about the workings of Springfield's organized crime operation. Al Bruno was shot to death in the parking lot of the Mount Carmel Society parking lot in November of 2003. Federal prosecutors say the reason why Frankie Roche gunned down Bruno was because one faction of the Springfield crew of the Genovese crime family was trying to seize power from Bruno. Prosecutors say that Bruno wasn't kicking back enough money from local gambling and extortion operations to the bosses in New York.

News **04/18/08** **5am** **: 30**

After 2AM Springfield Police responded to reports of shots being fired outside Aquarius Night Club on the corner of State and Benton Street. Springfield Police Captain John Barberry says two men sitting in a parked car on Benton Street became victims when the bullet went through their side window. Both men were sent to Baystate Medical Center with non life threatening injuries. One man was shot in the face and another caught a shard of glass in his eye.

News **04/20/08** **7am** **: 30**

One of three men accused of killing a 37 year old man whom they mistakenly believed had assaulted a teen girl has pleaded guilty to second degree murder. 19 year old Luis Lopez's plea to second degree murder means he'll be eligible for parole in 15 years. Lopez and two other men are accused of killing Jose Marte of Holyoke in October 2006 after wrongly identifying him as the man who assaulted a young girl.

News **04/20/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Springfield on 4 Darwell Street there was a stabbing. Sgt. Chris Hitas says the male victim has been taken to the hospital with a stab wound to the chest. Police are looking for one suspect in connection with that stabbing.

News **04/24/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Springfield police arrested 3 women on prostitution charges and they also took in 4 of their male customers. Residents who live near the prostitution hot spots say more of these stings are needed. Victoria Hall lives in the Forest Park section of Springfield. She describes her neighborhood as beautiful and well kept. But admits there's something ugly in parts of this community. That's because it's not uncommon to find prostitutes and drug dealing in some areas. Springfield police targeted those hot spots: Belmont Avenue, South Main Street and the Six Corners section. Starting at 5AM, 7 people, more than half of them men had been arrested by the end of the sweep. This is the department's 4th prostitution sweep this month. Sergeant John Delaney says police are stepping up these efforts to help address the city's quality of life issues. All of those arrested were charged with sexual conduct for a fee.

News **04/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

A Springfield man is recovering after he was shot in the leg during a drive by shooting around 11PM on Girard Avenue. Springfield Police Lt. John Slepchuck says a 28 year old city man was riding his bike down the street. A car drove by and fired at him 3 times; one of those shots hit him in the right leg. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center and is expected to survive his wound. Police are now searching for 4 suspects.

News **04/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Springfield Police are on the scene of a shooting on Beaumont Street. Springfield Police Captain John Barbieri says a 20 year old man was shot in the neck but was walking around when police arrived. The shooting victim will be taken by ambulance to the hospital. No suspects or arrests at this time.

News **04/28/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Springfield, two men were shot in two separate incidents. One was shot in the leg outside Fresco's Bar on East Columbus Avenue around 2:30AM on Sunday. The second shooting was just 90 minutes later on Locust Street; a man was shot inside his apartment. After the shootings, Mayor Domenic Sarno questioned what type of operation Fresco's owners was running; that's where the first shooting took place. Sarno said the establishment allegedly doesn't have a license to operate as a night club.

News **04/28/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Greenfield an alleged man riding a bicycle robs a woman at an ATM. The alleged robber couldn't peddle away fast enough to escape police. The victim is hoping to raise awareness

for bank customers, withdrawing money from ATMs, after she was robbed in broad daylight. Greenfield Police Officer Marcus Paulin says it happened at the Greenfield Cooperative Bank on Federal Street around 6:30PM on Sunday. The woman drove up to the automated cash machine, taking out a small sum of money when a man swiped the cash from her fingers. The alleged thief, 37 year old Felton Moore of Greenfield, was caught up with by police in town, shortly after the victim reported the crime, matching his description and blue bicycle.

News **04/29/08** **6am** **: 30**

A former Springfield man faces up to 10 years in prison when he's sentenced for trying to hire a hit man to rape and murder his ex-wife. Prosecutors say Ira Bloom wanted to ensure he'd win a custody dispute. A jury found him guilty last October of murder for hire charges in Hartford Federal Court. That's where he's set for sentencing.

News **04/29/08** **12pm** **: 30**

An Otis man was sentenced to serve 15 to 20 years in prison on child rape charges. Alden Hewett was sentenced this afternoon in Berkshire Superior Court. He was convicted earlier this month of sexually assaulting a boy over 3 years starting in 1991. The 55 year old lives in Otis and is a co-owner of a local ski area. He was also a former Police Constable in New Hartford, Connecticut.

News **04/29/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Police are investigating an alleged stabbing that took place in front of the Springfield Amtrak Station. It happened around 1:30PM on the sidewalk in front of the train station on Lyman Street. No word on the condition of the victim, but there was a large amount of blood on the sidewalk. Police have not released any information about the search for suspects in connection with that stabbing.

News **04/30/08** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield police are searching for suspects after an early morning home invasion in Indian Orchard. It happened at 2257 Page Blvd, around 2AM. Springfield Police Lt. John Bobianski says that a 34 year old man was home alone when 2 men broke in through the back door. The victim ran out through the front door, but the men chased him down and beat him with a pipe. The victim told police that 2 shots were fired during the incident, but police have not recovered any shell casings. The victim refused medical treatment. Lt. Bobianski says police are now searching for 2 Hispanic males, in a blue mini van.

News **05/01/08** **5am** **: 30**

In Southampton, 2 men were arraigned in court. At 225 Brickyard Road, police discovered a significant amount of marijuana. Renter Steven Crippen and Bryan McIntyre, both of Southampton, were arrested on drug possession and cultivation charges. Crippen's landlord & neighbor Eugene Labrie said it was a personal issue that needed police attention, but he

never thought it would lead to this discovery. Crippen and McIntyre were arraigned in Northampton District Court. Crippen has a bail hearing; McIntyre who has had previous offenses is held on \$20,000 dollar bail. He's due back in court for a pre trial hearing May 29th.

News **05/01/08** **6am** **: 30**

Springfield Police credit 22news with helping them apprehend a burglary suspect. Police arrested Scott Nadeau of 1043 Berkshire Avenue late Tuesday night. According to Springfield Police Officer Marcia Browne, Nadeau was the suspect in last week's break-in at the Berkshire Avenue Pride Station. 22news aired the security camera pictures of the suspect Tuesday night, and police were able to ID Nadeau after receiving an anonymous tip.

News **05/02/08** **6pm** **: 30**

In the Berkshire county town of Monterey, a standoff between a woman and police is over. State trooper Thomas Murphy said that a woman in her 30's barricaded herself inside a home around noon. She finally came out of the home without incident about two hours ago. The woman was taken to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield for a medical evaluation. The Massachusetts State Police "Stop Team" and Hostage Team helped in coaxing the woman out of the house. State police refused to give the address where the standoff took place.

News **05/03/08** **6am** **: 30**

The Bank of Western Massachusetts on 1515 Northampton Street in Holyoke was held up just after 9AM when 2 men walked into the bank branch and showed the teller a gun. They demanded money be placed in two satchels. Captain Arthur Monfette said the bank teller stood up against the armed perpetrators and refused to give them the cash. The two suspects fled on foot. The teller called 911. Police collected evidence and interviewed witnesses. Police cruisers caught both suspects in the area of Exit 17 off Interstate 91. The two suspects are 27 year old Tiashen Johnson and 26 year old Richard Ducran; both are from Bridgeport, CT. The two were charged with attempted armed robbery and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon. Holyoke Police Chief Anthony Scott said the FBI is now involved because there is a possibility these two suspects are connected with similar crimes across New England.

News **05/05/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A Springfield arms collector is being held without right to bail tonight on charges related to a collection that included a large cache of military type weapons and ammunition. Police responding to a report of a domestic disturbance this weekend arrested Gerald Plouff after they discovered machine guns, percussion caps, gunpowder and other weapons. The 60-year-old Plouff pleaded innocent to weapons and assault charges in Springfield District Court.

News **05/07/08** **11pm** **: 30**

According to West Springfield Police, Richard Ricci allegedly hit a car and drove off, but the driver followed the car while calling police on her cell phone. When police pulled Ricci over, he allegedly sped off. His car only went a few hundred yards, crossed Front Street and was totaled on the train tracks.

News **05/11/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A terrifying overnight incident in Springfield only strengthens the fear that innocent bystanders are just as liable to be shot as are the gunman's intended victims. Just after 12:30 this morning in Springfield's high crime rate area of Federal and Worthington streets, a 73 year old neighborhood woman was struck by a stray bullet. Police Lt. John Bobianski tells 22news there was large disturbance outside the Blue Eagle Restaurant on Worthington Street. An anonymous passerby told 22news that she saw a man with a gun. But she wouldn't share the information with police for fear of retaliation. The older woman struck by the stray bullet is expect to recover. The man with the gun is still on the loose.

News **05/12/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A total of 14 people were arrested in coordinated drug sweeps in the Palmer area over the weekend. The investigation began almost four months ago in response to complaints received from residents in the area where most of the drug dealing was taking place. These areas include two multifamily apartment buildings; one in Three Rivers and one in Palmer.

News **05/22/08** **5am** **: 30**

In Chicopee, four people are under arrest after a disturbance turned into two people being slashed with a knife. Police were called to 979 Chicopee Street just after 2PM. Sargeant Jeffery Nadeau says it still isn't clear what started the disturbance. But he did say that the two victims are already out of the hospital. He expects the suspects will be arraigned in Chicopee District Court.

News **05/22/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In Springfield a store clerk was stabbed during a conveniences store robbery in the city's Forest Park neighborhood. It happened at the Tedeschi Food Shop at 266 Belmont Avenue. Springfield detectives are searching for two male suspects seen running from the scene of the attack. Police says the wounds are not life threatening.

News **05/23/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Main Street was blocked off in North Adams and the Hoosac Bank locked down following an attempted robbery and a bomb scare. Just before 4PM at Hoosac Bank, a suspected would be bank robber struggled with police on the sidewalk. Public Safety Commissioner John Morocco says the suspect dropped a black bag and a black object on the sidewalk. Police suspected the items might be a bomb and a detonator. They were destroyed by the bomb squad. The suspect and another "person of interest" are being held at the North Adams Police Department.

News **05/27/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Charges on 2 Holyoke Police Officers have been reduced in Palmer District Court. Jury selection is underway in the trial of Joseph Wilson and Sean Shattuck. The pair is accused of beating Christopher Martinez of Holyoke outside Pal Joey's last December. Both officers were off duty the night of the incident. Shattuck and Wilson had been charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. They will now be tried on a lesser charge of assault and battery.

News **05/27/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A former Pittsfield Police Officer has asked a state commission to reverse last month's decision by Mayor James Ruberto to fire him. Patrick Duffy argues that his termination was based on "the use of improper and inadmissible evidence." Duffy was fired for allegedly punching a man who was handcuffed in 2006 and the lying about it in police reports. The state civil service commission is yet to set a pretrial hearing.

News **05/28/08** **5am** **: 30**

A Holyoke man is recovering after he was shot during a home invasion. It happened around 1:30AM on 173 Elm Street. Holyoke police Lt. Donald Whelihan says that a man living in the apartment was injured when a bullet grazed the back of his head. He was taken to Holyoke Medical Center where he is recovering. Holyoke police are hoping to question the victim later that morning; so they can begin looking for suspects.

News **05/29/08** **6am** **: 30**

In Springfield around 11:30PM a man refused to stop on Route 291; he was caught allegedly speeding. The driver of the Chevy Tahoe got off Route 91, Exit 9, Plainfield Street and continued to lead State Police through side streets. State Trooper Mark Weiner said at one point the Tahoe ran a cruiser off the road. Thankfully no one was hurt. The chase ended when 38 year old Miguel Guadalupe, pulled into his driveway on Newland Street. He's been charged with operating under the influence and driving without a license.

News **05/30/08** **6am** **: 30**

A Pittsfield businessman has been indicted on bank fraud and money laundering charges. Michael Armitage is accused by federal prosecutors of obtaining more than \$1 million dollars in fraudulent business loans from West Springfield based United Bank over a 5 year period. The indictment also alleges Armitage embezzled money from Power Development Company one of his businesses.

News **06/04/08** **6am** **: 30**

A dispute over rent money escalated to violence in Springfield, leaving two men behind bars. It happened around 3:15PM near 494 Central Street. Springfield Police Captain Peter Dillon says that 48 year old Andre Clemens threw a brick through the window of a van, hitting 48 year old Anthony Clark in the head. Captain Dillon says that Clark then got out of the car and stabbed Clemens twice in the back. Both men were treated for their wounds and arrested.

News **06/04/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke police have released the name of the first murder victim found Sunday morning on South Street. Captain Monfette says that 44-year old Humberto Brindis was found dead Sunday morning in his apartment at 554 South Street. He had a stab wound in his back. Police say they have a number of leads but are still looking for any information regarding the murder.

News **06/04/08** **6pm** **: 30**

An arson fire struck two South Hadley businesses Monday. The Houle Family Restaurant and the "Totally Polished" nail salon at 50 Lamb Street were damaged in the fire. The nail salon is a total loss. The restaurant sustained smoke damage and will reopen next Tuesday. South Hadley police arrested Aleathia Lavalley of Winchendon. Lavalley was arraigned on charges of burning a building and malicious damage to a motor vehicle. Following a dangerousness hearing, Lavalley was ordered held until next Tuesday.

News **06/06/08** **7am** **: 30**

A woman from Springfield is under arrest after allegedly stabbing her boyfriend during an argument. 58 year old Beatrice Harrison will be arraigned later today on charges she stabbed Henry Collins just before 7:30PM at 149 Seymour Avenue. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center for non life threatening injuries. Harrison is charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

News **06/06/08** **7am** **: 30**

A West Springfield man faces federal murder charges in the assassination of former reputed Springfield area mob boss Al Bruno. Fotios Geas was named in a one count federal indictment yesterday, charging him with murder in aid of racketeering in the shooting death of Bruno. Al Bruno was shot to death outside the Mt. Carmel Social Club in Springfield, in November of 2003. The Justice Department indictment says Geas paid Frankie Roche \$10,000 dollars to murder Bruno on behalf of the Springfield crew of the Genovese crime family. Frankie Roche pleaded guilty to Bruno's murder in April. In a plea deal with the feds, Roche was spared the death penalty in exchange for his cooperation.

News **06/06/08** **7am** **: 30**

A Northampton Fire Captain and his wife have been charged under the state's so-called "Social Host" Law. Prosecutors allege that Edgar and Deborah Lesko allowed several underage youths to drink alcohol in their home last July. One of those youths, 19 year old David Holman, was later killed when the car he was driving struck a tree. The couple was released on personal recognizance after pleading not guilty in Northampton District Court to four counts of furnishing alcohol to a minor.

News **06/08/08** **7am** **: 30**

Police are searching for the vandals who desecrated a cemetery in the town of Palmer. Dozens of tombstones toppled after teens terrorized landmarks across town. 26 tombstones were knocked over at Four Corners and at St. Anne's Cemetery. Security cameras caught two to four teens getting away on bikes Thursday morning. The State Police Crime Team was called in to collect finger and footprints. Palmer police believe this latest crime is linked to a number of other crimes across town.

News **06/12/08** **6am** **: 30**

A 13-year-old boy has been ordered held without bail on charges he set the fire that destroyed a historic Paper Mill in Holyoke. The boy, whose name has not been released because of his age, was arraigned in Juvenile Court on arson and breaking and entering charges. The Parsons Paper Mill began operations in 1953 and closed in 2005.

News **06/13/08** **6am** **: 30**

A former high school principal finds himself in trouble with the law. Russell Goyette is being held on \$10,000 bail after pleading not guilty to having thousands of pornographic images involving children on his personal computer. He was arraigned on 16 counts of possession of child pornography in Norfolk Superior Court. 61-year-old Goyette was the former principal at both Seekonk and Hull High Schools. He is due back in court on July 8.

News **06/13/08** **6am** **: 30**

A hit-and-run accident caught on tape in Hartford last week is drawing national attention. 78 year old Angel Torres was crossing the street when he was hit by a car and the driver took off. A nearby traffic camera caught it all on tape. More than one minute later a police cruiser on its way to another call found him in the street. Police are actively looking for the two cars seen in the surveillance video. One is an older model Honda either blue or black. The other is a tan colored Toyota. Connecticut Governor Jodi Rell announced a \$10,000 reward for information that lead to an arrest in the case.

News **06/13/08** **6am** **: 30**

A second teen has pleaded not guilty in the slaying of a Springfield High School basketball star and honor student. 18-year-old Daniel Williams III was arraigned on a murder charge in Springfield District Court. Prosecutors did not detail Williams's alleged role in the May 17 shooting of Mario Hornsby, Jr. Last month, 17-year-old Kieson Cuffee of Springfield pleaded

not guilty to a murder charge in the case. Prosecutors say Cuffee emerged from nearby bushes and fired the gun, hitting Hornsby in the back.

News **06/13/08** **6am** **: 30**

Police are searching for the vandals who desecrated a cemetery in the town of Palmer. Dozens of tombstones toppled after teens terrorized landmarks across town. 26 tombstones were knocked over at Four Corners, and at St. Anne's cemetery one man visiting his wife's grave was brought to tears, seeing the desecration.

News **06/13/08** **9am** **: 30**

There was a game of cat and mouse in the South end of Springfield with police officers and a shooting suspect. The suspect, now captured, allegedly threatened to kill his mother. Springfield police captain John Barbieri said Antonio Jimenez started sparring with his mother overnight after she told him to leave her house. Tempers flared and Jimenez allegedly started randomly firing rounds off in the yard, threatening her life. He reportedly took off running; police spotted him on Pleasant Ave., jumping fences. Ultimately, Jimenez was dragged down with a struggle from the rooftop of 125 Main St. Antonio Jimenez is being held this morning on a host of gun charges.

News **06/13/08** **12pm** **:30**

The Springfield Arson and Bomb Squad has determined the contents of a suspicious-looking package on the railroad tracks at the corner of Robbins Road and Page Boulevard. The package was discovered by Fire Department personnel who passed by at mid-morning. After investigating, the Arson and Bomb Squad discovered an organ wrapped in a tee shirt. They are not sure how it got there, if the organ is human or animal, or what type of organ it is. Traffic was restricted in the area while the investigation was being conducted. Ten people were also evacuated from nearby Noonan Energy.

News **06/16/08** **5am** **: 30**

One man is dead after being shot to death in Springfield this morning. Sgt. Thomas Meleady told 22 News the man was found shot at the Tedeski Food Market near Main and Central Streets. Detectives are still in the area trying to piece information together this morning.

News **06/16/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Two men charged with killing three people in a home invasion in Cheshire last year are set to appear in court for pre-trial negotiations today. Joshua Komisarjevsky and Steven Hayes are charged with capital felony, murder and other crimes in the killings of 48-year-old Jennifer Hawke-Petit and her two daughters, 17-year-old Hayley and 11-year-old Michaela. Dr. William Petit was severely beaten but survived. Komisarjevsky and Hayes could face the death penalty if convicted. They have pleaded not guilty.

News **06/16/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Police in Springfield continue to search for suspects after a man was murdered in the city's South End early this morning. A 25-year old Springfield man was shot just outside the Honeyland Farms food shop around 2 am. Captain McFarland with the Springfield Police tells 22 News that they heard gunshots in the area of Central and Main Street. The victim was shot at multiple times and hit once in the convenient store parking lot. He ran across the road to Central Street. That's when police saw him. He then collapsed and died on the street.

News **06/17/08** **5am** **: 30**

A six month old child is recovering after being shot in the stomach. Police say the child was shot while her father was holding her in an apartment in Boston last night. Authorities believe her father, who was also shot in the hand, was the intended target. The child spent the night in surgery. Her condition isn't known. Police have not released any details about possible suspects or a motive.

News **06/17/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Police in Wilbraham are investigating an armed robbery at the town's Louis and Clark Drug Store. Just after 8:30 last night, two suspects entered the Main Street store wearing masks. They walked behind the counter, displayed a knife, and demanded the contents of the cash register. They took off with an undetermined amount of cash. Searching in the woods nearby, police have recovered a knife, the masks, and the clothing worn by the suspects.

News **06/19/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A man is free tonight on \$500 bail after police say he shot his neighbor's two dogs. One of the dogs may survive, but the other is dead. 25-year-old Erwin Markham is charged with 2 counts of Animal Cruelty and discharging a firearm within 500 ft of a dwelling. The owner of the dog says he has no idea why the dogs were shot. Police report Markham says the dogs were growling at him, so he went and got his shotgun. Markham wouldn't answer questions when 22NEWS went to see him this evening. Faccini says he hopes Markham gets the maximum penalty if convicted. He'll be in court for a preliminary hearing next week.

News **06/20/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Massachusetts doesn't have the death penalty, but a local man could still face it if convicted. Foteas Geas, Jr. of West Springfield was arraigned today on federal murder charges in the death of reputed mob boss Al Bruno. Geas pleaded not guilty to charges of murder connected to racketeering and aiding and abetting. Al Bruno was gunned down in 2003 outside a south end social club. Frankie Roche, who pleaded guilty to the killing, says Geas paid him \$10,000 cash to shoot Bruno. Geas is currently being held without bail on a state first degree murder charge.

News **06/25/08** **6am** **: 30**

A little after midnight Police were called to Kennedy Middle School at 1385 Berkshire Avenue after the alarm went off. The alarm company called the police saying there was broken glass in the cafeteria in the rear of the building. Lt. Rupert Daniel with the Springfield Police Department said when police arrived they saw four teens outside of the school. After they spotted the police the teens ran back into the building. Police arrested all four suspects, 3 of those are in their parents custody this morning. One 19 year old had a BB gun with him and is being held at police headquarters this morning. All four teens are being charged with breaking and entering.

News

06/25/08

7am

: 30

Violence erupted in Springfield last night as two people are shot. Captain Peter Dillion told 22 News that the shootings took place on Cambridge Street around 9:30 last night. The two victims, both males were found in two different locations: one on Cambridge Street, and the other at 72 Dawes Street. Dillion says the two men didn't suffer life threatening injuries.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 2nd quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/08 5pm : 30

The president of Hampshire College pledged to address student concerns after a student walkout on issues including campus diversity and racism. Hampshire president Ralph Hexter said his administration has developed a list of "action items" including funding for student groups, and training for faculty, staff and students. Hexter issued the statement after many students staged a walkout.

News 04/01/08 6pm : 30

More than 1,000,000 teenagers drop out of high school each year; that's one every 26 seconds. A report out today found that only about half the students in some urban areas actually get a diploma. That's according to America's promise alliance. They say Springfield's graduation rate for the 2003-2004 academic years was 32.5%. The principal at Putnam High School blames socio-economic factors for the alarming statistic. Principal Kevin McCaskill says it's important for parents to stress the importance of education at home and adds that schools need to work harder to keep students engaged.

News 04/01/08 6pm : 30

A shortfall in Easthampton finances is stretching school resources thin. There will definitely be cuts in teaching positions this year; but the big question is how many Easthampton parents are already feeling the pinch when it comes to the city's financial woes. A lack of funding is the issue. The school committee approved a budget increase of \$950,000 dollars. Superintendent Deborah Carter says the mayor came up with a figure \$500,000-\$700,000 dollars short; not enough to maintain school services. Carter says the affects will primarily be seen at the elementary and middle schools. Casey Douglas has two kids in the public school system. Over 100 children enrolling in Easthampton public schools in the last two years have made class sizes larger; those are expected to be hit the hardest. The mayor refused to comment. The City Council will have a look at next year's budget in mid April.

News 04/04/08 5pm : 30

The state senate has approved a bill that would allow hopeful teachers, who flunk the certification test, to possibly teach anyway. The law would provide a waiver that could lead to certification. Teaching candidates who have taken the test three times, and failed, would have to at least come close to passing once; though senate republicans ridiculed the legislation, which still needs approval from the house and Governor Patrick. One outraged senator asked how the state can expect students to have a minimum level of knowledge

when they don't expect the same from educators. Local parents are split on the issue. Senate democrats said this would just allow teachers to be assessed on a larger scale so talented instructors aren't denied jobs.

News **04/05/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield parents take matters into their own hands to provide their children with a school playground. The Glickman Elementary School has been without a playground except for a basketball court ever since the school opened. All that will change later this spring with construction of a playground for able bodied as well as disabled children. The father of one such child says, he's delighted with the progress towards construction. Fund drive organizers say that 30% of the children attending the Glickman School have some type of physical handicap. They're confident the \$95,000 playground construction fund will be there for them. And they're hoping for some last minute donations they can be sent to the Glickman playground committee, care of the Glickman Elementary School, 120 Ashland Avenue, Springfield.

News **04/07/08** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield schools hope a federal grant of nearly \$1,000,000 translates to better student performance in American history studies. The district's grant will help pay for ongoing teacher training. The program offers credit courses, summer events and other activities to boost teachers' knowledge of history so they can pass it on to students.

News **04/10/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Efforts to educate young people about financial matters appear to be failing. The Federal Reserve says high school seniors answered correctly only 48% of questions about personal finance and economics. That's lower than the 52% in the previous year. Local high school seniors chalk it up to students uninterested in economics. The fed says young people must increase their financial know how to make good life long decisions about money.

News **04/11/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Starting next fall, students in Springfield will be sporting academic attire. Springfield School Committee members voted in favor of mandatory uniforms at public schools. The new fashion will consist of navy or tan pants, shorts or skirts and light blue or white shirts. Administrators hope the uniforms will decrease violence and theft of designer clothing and prevent gang members from wearing gang colors. If a student foregoes the fashions, punishment will range from an immediate change of clothes to detention.

News **04/13/08** **9am** **: 30**

Hundreds of residents came out to support West Springfield's firemen and police officers during a charity basketball game. At West Springfield high school the bleachers were filled with an excited audience cheering on players from both the local fire and police departments. During the charity basketball game, fire fighters and police officers broke into two teams: the

bravest versus the finest. Proceeds from the event go towards two local children's cancer foundations.

News **04/13/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A beloved figure on the campus of Westfield State College receives a heartfelt honor today. The Westfield State College dining hall was re-named in honor of Father John Dean, the school's longtime catholic chaplain. Father Dean, as he's become affectionately known during his 28 years on campus, can boast of students being some his most ardent admirers. Father Dean's quick wit has also endeared him during these many years of service to Westfield State College.

News **04/15/08** **5pm** **: 30**

One local college opened its gym to educate the community on a variety of health issues. This afternoon Springfield Technical Community College had its 10th Annual Free Community Health Fair. The different booths were run by the college's nursing students as a final project before graduation. The fair showcased displays on health problems ranging from high blood pressure to STD awareness. There are 87 graduating students in the school of nursing at STCC this year.

News **04/15/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Superintendent of Schools Joseph Burke has decided to leave his position when his current contract expires in June. In doing so, Burke ends a dispute between the School Committee and the Control Board. Committee wanted Burke to stay; the Control Board wanted a new superintendent. Burke says whoever replaces him will have an uphill battle because the next superintendent will be working for the Control Board not the School Committee.

News **04/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

A former nursing teacher at Berkshire Community College has left the school a half million dollars. This is the largest gift in school history. Barbara Nichols taught at BCC from 1967 to 1984 and died in October at age 89. The money will be used for scholarships and teaching programs.

News **04/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Peer pressure is an unavoidable part of growing up. Girls Incorporated of Holyoke is fostering lofty goals for area young girls. They aim to inspire all students to be strong, smart and bold. 450 people packed the MassMutual Center for a breakfast Thursday morning in support of the program. Holyoke has the highest pregnancy rate in the state. In 2006 only 49% of students graduated from high school. Girls get advice on everything from safe sex to college preparation. The program designed for girls between the ages of 5 to 18 reaches nearly 1,800 girls each year

News **04/18/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Westfield High School was locked down, but not because of a bomb scare, but instead to see if students brought drugs or alcohol to school. Principal Raymond Broderick says police found alcohol in students' cars and one had marijuana in their locker. Principal Broderick also says this lockdown has been in the works for months. Parents are happy to hear that the school is being proactive.

News **04/20/08** **9am** **: 30**

The High School of Commerce annual junior ROTC Cadet Ball held at Chez Joseph in Agawam recognized Cadets goodwill. The banquet dinner brought together dozens for their service to the community. Cadets participate in parades, sporting events, and other activities. One Cadet we spoke with says the junior ROTC program instills a sense of responsibility.

News **04/21/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Money to help improve advanced placement test scores will soon be available through grants for Northampton High, Springfield's Central and Renaissance High School. The schools were among 11 high schools in the state picked by the National Math and Science initiative for the new program. They'll each get money for teacher training, student support and performance awards.

News **04/22/08** **6pm** **: 30**

A \$50,000 check will help students at Springfield Technical Community College further their education. Western Massachusetts Electric Company presented a check to STCC for scholarships for students in the school of Math, Sciences, and Engineering. The students complete their first two years of an engineering degree at STCC then transfer to other colleges or universities.

News **04/22/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A very small percentage of Greenfield's voters tuned out for a preliminary election to narrow the field of school committee candidates from three to two. The two top vote-getters, Matthew Sheridan and Maryellen Calderwood will face each other in the town elections, June 10th. Greenfield town clerk Maureen Winseck says only 4% of Greenfield's registered voters bothered to cast ballots today.

News **04/23/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The Massachusetts Latino Chamber of Commerce in Springfield receives a Technology Excellence Award. LISTA or Latinos in Information Science and Technology Association recognized the chamber for facilitating Latino businesses with the education they need to succeed. The chamber is holding a Business and Technology Seminar for local youth. LISTA wants to make it a national model. Through this partnership with LISTA, the Latino Chamber in Springfield hopes to bridge the digital divide among Hispanics.

News **04/24/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Greenfield residents worry there's not enough money to fund the school system next year. Fewer than twenty people showed up for the school committee's public meeting in the Greenfield High School Library. They'd already approved a budget of about \$17 million dollars, but Mayor Christine Forgey only allotted \$14.4 million. Residents want to find areas to cut costs, but they want to maintain quality. The school committee held a second vote because they failed to hold a public speak out before their last meeting.

News **04/25/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Many teens can't seem to get enough of text messaging. A new survey shows all this text time may be taking a toll on their schoolwork. In a telephone based survey of 700 teenagers between 12 and 17, two-thirds said text messaging is affecting their formal writing. The survey found students who text or blog using smiley face graphics and popular abbreviations are more likely use those shortcuts in their school work. But some teens we spoke with said their love for texting doesn't hinder their school performance. The survey found that one of the most popular abbreviations was the letters "lol" which stands for "laughing out loud."

News **04/28/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The state's new education commissioner says schools and the state need to do more to make sure that Massachusetts students are better prepared for college or careers. Mitchell Chester says the state's educators have done a lot of things right to help ensure that graduation rates are one of the highest in the nation. But he said educators need higher standards for curriculum, assessment and accountability.

News **04/30/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Greenfield Mayor Christine Forgey has some ideas to close the school budget gaps. She wants the school committee to consider closing the Elementary School. Forgey also has proposed converting Greenfield High School into a junior-senior high school and closing down three other buildings. But she says she does not expect the committee will take all of the measures when it meets on May 8.

News **05/03/08** **6pm** **: 30**

At the Holyoke Community Charter School dozens of nationalities, parents and students celebrated that diversity during their Annual International Day. The International Day Celebration encourages Charter School students and their families to share their classmates' rich cultural backgrounds. Parents and teachers say this is an eagerly awaited tradition at the Holyoke Charter School. Some of the other nationalities represented in the Charter School student body are Lebanese, Ethiopian, Moroccan, Portuguese and Greek.

News **05/13/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Several Western Massachusetts schools are among 23 across the Bay State being recognized for excellence in Energy and Environmental Education. The awards were given out by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Management to schools that raised awareness about environmental issues. Schools in Amherst, Holyoke, Monson, Springfield and West Springfield are among those receiving cash awards.

News **05/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

A Northampton man is among three appointments made by Governor Patrick to the state's board of early education and care. Orlando Isaza is the senior program officer at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. He's also an Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Human Services at Springfield College.

News **05/16/08** **6pm** **: 30**

The Greenfield School Committee has come up with a permanent solution for the towns near \$2,000,000 dollar budget shortfall. For now, nearly every teacher will be handed a pink slip at the end of this school year. The news came last night during the school committee meeting. Virtually every educator in Greenfield will be terminated effective June 18th. Obviously not every teacher will be laid off next year, many will be recalled but the move from the superintendent was the worst case scenario. A new school committee member, John Lunt presented a possible budget cut plan, saving the schools just over a million dollars. In his plan, 20 educators, compared to the 35 proposed would be cut and was met with cheers from teachers, but jeers from the committee and was struck down. Parents say handing out pink slips is unfair to teachers. The school committee has until June to hammer out the details of next year's budget.

News **05/20/08** **12pm** **: 30**

\$75,000 dollars given to Holyoke Catholic High School will help pay for the schools new facility. The gift from the Chicopee Savings Bank Foundation will help pay for the school's new \$11 million facility in Chicopee scheduled to open this fall. The new building will help the school boost its current enrollment of 300 students.

News **05/22/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The Greenfield town council invited the school committee and the superintendent of schools to address the fiscal crisis in the Greenfield school district. The school budget proposals from the school committee and mayor are separated by about \$1.7 million dollars. Some residents at the meeting demanded that all leadership work together to find an effective alternative to layoffs and school closings.

News **05/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

College students who've been waitlisted have a better chance of getting into their first choice schools. More students are being accepted from higher tier school waiting lists this year. Some reasons why include a large class of high school applicants and the elimination of early admissions program by Harvard, Princeton and others. There's also more financial aid for middle and upper class students.

News **05/26/08** **6pm** **: 30**

East Longmeadow firefighters, police and families gathered to honor our fallen war heroes. 22News Promotions Director, Anna Giza, sang the national anthem at East Longmeadow high school. Residents brought roses to thank those who served, and for the veterans in attendance. Parents say it was more than just a time to honor those who served; it was a chance to teach a younger generation the sacrifices others have made for their freedom.

News **05/27/08** **11pm** **: 30**

It's graduation week at Springfield Technical Community College. Tonight the school welcomed dozens of students into the nursing profession. 84 women and men carried the traditional rose for their nursing pinning ceremony at Scibelli Hall. The graduates we spoke with say it is a love for people that drew them into a career in nursing. STCC expanded its nursing program five years ago to accommodate more students and to provide more potential employees to area healthcare institutions.

News **05/27/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Another school announced today they're throwing out SAT and ACT requirements, joining a growing number of colleges that tell students those test scores are nothing to sweat over. A growing number of schools are either *de-emphasizing* standardized tests, making them optional, or throwing them out altogether. Today, Wake Forest became the latest school to no longer *require* the SAT or other tests for admission.

News **06/12/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Many children are spending a lot of their time on the internet, but a new survey shows that's not necessarily keeping them away from reading books. Their time on the computer may be helping their reading skills. Scholastic found that young people aren't giving up on reading books for surfing the internet, but are actually combining both mediums to enhance their learning experience. Scholastic books discovered after surveying children from 5 to 17 years old, 75% said no matter how much they can do online, they'll still always want to read books. The report showed that two thirds of the kids believe within the next 10 years most leisure reading books will be read digitally, either online or on some kind of electronic device.

News **06/27/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A new poll finds parents think schools are emphasizing the wrong subjects. They say schools need to better equip students for the real world, with a strong foundation in math. A new

study finds college education programs don't spend enough time training teachers on how to teach math. Younger students may be getting short-changed on their overall educations, since math relies on cumulative knowledge. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is offering summer institutes here in Western Massachusetts for teachers to take free courses in both Math and English. The summer institutes are an opportunity for teachers to hone their approaches and catch up with the evolving world of education.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 2nd quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/08 5am : 30

On I-91, in Chicopee clean-up continues at the site of tanker truck explosion. The State Department of Environmental Protection is overseeing the clean-up efforts. Spokeswoman Eva Tor says booms in the river will help contain any gasoline residue that might've spilled into the water. Because of the rainy weather, crews covered some of the contaminated soil down the embankment to Center Street to prevent any spillage. Tor says most of the clean-up has been completed.

News 04/10/08 6pm : 30

Northampton gets ready for a clean sweep. Starting on Saturday, April 12th, a parking ban will be in effect throughout downtown on Main Street and all side streets from 2AM to 9:30AM. This is all for street sweeping. Free overnight parking is available in all Municipal parking lots beginning at 6PM on Friday April 11th until 11:00a.m and on Saturday April 12th.

News 04/19/08 6pm : 30

In Holyoke residents rolled up their sleeves and took responsibility for cleaning up their neighborhoods. Day two of Holyoke clean-sweep produced more of that community spirit extending to still more neighborhoods. Those who helped clean up the neighborhood on Essex Street and community field say if they don't do it, who will? From the experience of this two day clean-up Mayor Michael Sullivan hopes to develop a core of volunteers who can make clean-sweep a regular campaign not just once a year.

News 04/19/08 6pm : 30

Environmentally concerned men and women were putting the green back into Greenfield. In Franklin County residents put on a green fair to show how serious they are about improving our planet. At this year's green fair in Greenfield, residents had a chance to explore their options on how they could live with the environment in mind. Vendors provided information about more energy efficient ways of living. Whether it's installing a more efficient solar heat system, or driving an electric scooter to work to help cut down on your gas consumption. The green fair has nearly doubled in size since its start five years ago.

News 04/23/08 11pm : 30

A new report suggests breathing in smog and air pollution could lead to an early death. The report is from the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council, where scientists

reviewed short-term exposure to ozone. They concluded that high levels of smog during a 24 hour period of time is enough to contribute to premature death.

News **04/28/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Western New England College hopes to help the environment by discouraging students from using dining room trays. Most WNEC students now carry their food to the table without the benefit of a tray. The man who dreamed up the idea of going trayless tells 22news, students don't need to use them. He says the move saves 173,000 gallons of water every year that won't be used to wash the food trays. Currier estimates students throw out almost 500,000 pounds of food each year.

News **05/01/08** **6pm** **: 30**

It was a chilly first day of May, but last week we were treated to a taste of summer. And poor air quality comes with that kind of weather. As 22news storm team meteorologist Adam Strzempko tells us, the EPA has made some changes to the air quality index this year. The Environmental Protection Agency has made some changes to the way it classifies unhealthy air days. On March 12th the EPA revised its air quality index to reflect changes in the national standards for ground level ozone. Ozone is a gas that forms when sunlight reacts with emissions from things like motor vehicles, chimneys and smoke stacks. It can irritate the respiratory system and can cause coughing, wheezing and chest pains and in some cases it can be life threatening. Under the new rule .075 parts per million will replace .084 as the new 8 hour ozone standard for the "unhealthy for sensitive groups category". And when AQI values are above 100 air quality is considered to be unhealthy. People with health issues should take additional precautions. Children and the elderly are more at risk for developing health problems due to ozone exposure.

News **05/02/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In Holyoke the Kelly Elementary School celebrated Massachusetts's Arbor Week by planting trees. This national holiday encourages people to plant trees in their communities. Holyoke's city forester visited the school to teach the students about the importance of trees. Other than producing oxygen, trees also help contain pollution, help control water run off and provide shade during hot summer days.

News **05/02/08** **6pm** **: 30**

During heavy rainstorms sewer overflow continues to pollute the Connecticut River; now some additional federal monies have been allocated to address the problem. A million dollar federal grant will help officials develop plans to separate more sewage lines from storm drains, which is the cause of the problem. But while this means more planning monies in place, the money to actually complete the job, over \$350,000,000, has yet to be allocated. In recent years area communities have managed to reduce the sewage flow into the river by half, but they have to foot the bill. City leaders are hoping congress will allocate more funds to take care of the problem.

News **05/05/08** **5pm** **: 30**

There's good news for bicyclists and joggers in the Hampshire county area. The Department of Conservation says the popular Norwatic bike trail is showing its age and now its time for reconstruction. You can see the pavement breaking here and there on this 11 ½ mile trail running from the border of Belchertown to Northampton. The Department of Conservation and Recreation says the raised concrete poses a danger to joggers and bikers.

News **05/18/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick and more than 1,500 other volunteers collected 17 tons of trash and planted hundreds of trees in 57 state parks across Massachusetts. Yesterday's second annual park serve day prepares state parks for the spring and summer recreation season. Volunteers removed litter from beaches, painted picnic tables, helped clear trails and improved landscaping.

News **06/12/08** **6am** **: 30**

Storms and flooding in the Midwest could mean higher prices at local grocery stores. Corn fields in several states, along with almost everything else in sight are full of water. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says flooding has hurt planting and expects farmers to harvest 10% less corn this year.

News **06/12/08** **6am** **: 30**

To save money on gas, Toyota has just the thing for you. The automaker just announced it will start production of a plug-in hybrid next year. Current hybrids, like the prius, use nickel-metal batteries. The plug-in hybrids will use lithium-ion batteries, like the ones in laptops. You'll be able to recharge the cars from an electrical outlet in your home. The new hybrids should be available in 2010.

News **06/12/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Clean up continues from Tuesday night's thunderstorms and that includes the damage sustained on the campus of Westfield State College. About 15 trees were toppled by the high winds. Two falling trees damaged the campus's newest residence hall. College officials estimate total damage at about \$5,000 dollars.

News **06/12/08** **5pm** **: 30**

One person has died and four others remain hospitalized after lightning struck a pavilion at Hamonasset Beach State Park in Madison, CT tonight. Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Dennis Schain says the lightning struck shortly after 5:00pm near the west beach parking area. The names of the victims have not been released. Schain says the person who died was brought to the shoreline clinic in Essex.

News **06/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

The red tide has forced the closure of shellfish beds in Boston Harbor for the first time in more than 30 years. The ban extends from the New Hampshire border to Cape Cod. Red tide is a toxic algae that makes shellfish dangerous to eat. Crabs, lobsters and shrimp are not affected.

News **06/16/08** **NOON** **: 30**

The state senate has approved a bill to prevent sprinklers going off in the rain. A Boston senator is behind the push to reduce wasteful water usage from sprinklers. The bill calls for an amendment to the state building code to include interruption devices like rain sensors for newly installed or renovated outdoor irrigation systems. The owner of Lucky Lawn Sprinkler Company says installing a rain sensor can cost between \$100-\$150 dollars.

News **06/24/08** **NOON** **: 30**

A Washington state man risked his life to save a baby moose, and it's caught on tape. Kevin Hannan was driving near Spokane when he spotted a baby moose caught in a barbed wire fence. He shot this video and snapped a few pictures, then cut the baby moose loose. Luckily, both Hannan and the moose walked away from the incident without any injuries.

News **06/24/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Storms plagued the Pioneer Valley for much of the day yesterday and for many areas that wild weather continued into the night. On Derryfield Avenue in Springfield a historic oak tree came crashing down, filling a resident's back yard, and damaging the deck and the house. No one inside was hurt.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health during the 2nd quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/08 6am : 30

Not getting a good night's sleep is enough to make most people grumpy. However new research shows it can also worsen symptoms of depression among the elderly. A review of elderly patients being treated for depression found those who reported persistent Insomnia were 2 to 3 times more likely to remain depressed. Experts say this study is in line with previous research that identified Insomnia as a risk factor for episodes of depression. About 30 percent of adults have symptoms of Insomnia. It is more common among the elderly and women.

News 04/01/08 6am : 30

Stalled contract negotiations for nurses who make house calls could be affecting your health care. Dwindling health care dollars are making it hard for nurses and their employers to find a common ground on health care benefits. Nurses at the VNA and Hospice of Cooley Dickenson are looking for a raise, better health benefits and work schedule. The issue is the budget provided for health care. The VNA is looking for a common ground, a way to put more money in to the nurse's pockets while maintaining their own bottom line before it affects your healthcare services.

News 04/02/08 11pm : 30

There is no scientific rationale for the average healthy individual to drink a lot of water and two kidney experts say it may be harmful. Drinking a lot of water is touted as helpful for everything from clearing toxins and keeping organs in shape; to keeping weight off and improving skin tone. At best, however, the evidence to back up these claims is weak, according to a new scientific review published in the journal of the American Society of Nephrology.

News 04/03/08 6am : 30

Heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States. A new study shows men who are overweight or obese have high cholesterol and blood pressure; more often than women in the same weight category. However, researchers found no significant gender difference in those who are morbidly obese. Morbidly obese patients have a lower risk of Cardiovascular Disease than those who are overweight or obese. Researchers stress while carrying this excess weight is still very dangerous, cardiovascular risk should be assessed by the level of obesity.

News **04/07/08** **5pm** **: 30**

In New Hampshire there are worries about a huge increase in the amount of ticks carrying Lyme disease. New Hampshire Public Health Officials already knew that cases of the Lyme disease were increasing, but health and human services commissioner Nicholas Toumpas said they were surprised to learn that more than half of the ticks sampled recently in several counties tested positive. The state saw 892 cases of Lyme disease last year, nearly 300 more than the year before.

News **04/08/08** **9am** **: 30**

Allergy season is upon us and there is no shortage of medicine that promises to take away all our aches and pains. From over the counter pills to nasal sprays, it can be a little confusing which option to endorse. Dr. Joseph Keenan, an Allergist with Holyoke Medical Center, does not find nasal sprays that promise instant relief, like Afrin, to be the best choice. Better treatment routes, according to Dr. Keenan, include: non-sedating antihistamines, saline nasal sprays, Benedryll, and always consulting your family doctor. If you choose to treat your symptoms at home, here's the line between allergies and infection. If you have a fever over 100 degrees, greenish secretion, or localized sinus pain you should seek medical attention. Normal allergy symptoms include itchy eyes, runny or stuffy nose, and sneezing.

News **04/08/08** **9am** **: 30**

The dictionary defines Autism as a brain development disorder that impairs social interaction; and there are thousands of Autistic children growing up here in Massachusetts. Their parents gathered at the Log Cabin in Holyoke for an annual conference to help each other cope. One parent of an Autistic child says they should never blame themselves. Elizabeth Lansing believes it's important for parents who have Autistic children to share experiences with other parents in a similar situation. Researchers are getting closer to identifying the causes and cure for Autism.

News **04/10/08** **6am** **: 30**

Prostate cancer is one of the most frequently occurring forms of the illness. Last night the YMCA of greater Westfield held an informational event for men to provide information on the disease. Co-sponsored by the Cancer House of Hope, it focused on proper nutrition, cancer screening and other methods to combat prostate cancer. Prostate cancer often has no symptoms, and is discovered only through a physical examination or PSA test.

News **04/16/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Many people take antioxidant supplements to fill in the gaps where their diet lacks fruits and vegetables. But a new review of research indicates supplemental antioxidants don't appear to reduce the risk of death and in some cases, may even increase mortality. Those included Beta-Carotene and Vitamins A and E, however, the review only included studies in which at least one patient died.

News **04/16/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Another study comes to a very different conclusion about Vitamin E. After following nearly 900 Alzheimer's disease patients for about 5 years, researchers found patients who took Vitamin E appeared to live longer than those who did not. Those who took about 1,000 international units of the vitamin twice a day were 26 percent less likely to die during the study. That amount of supplement is much more than what is recommended for the general population.

News **04/16/08** **5pm** **: 30**

The local chapter of the American Heart Association kicked off the organization's National Start Walking Day in Springfield. Mayor Dominic Sarno read a proclamation and urged all citizens to walk as a way to prevent heart disease and then went for a walk with his staff. In Forest Park, walkers say this is a great way to feel good about yourself.

News **04/16/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The cost of the state's landmark health care law keeps rising. Governor Deval Patrick is requesting another \$153,000,000 dollars to help cover the cost of the soaring enrollment in the law's subsidized health care plans for the current year. Some local residents say that they feel the state is passing along some of the rising healthcare costs to them. The new program has been more successful in enrolling people than first expected, sending lawmakers scrambling to find money to fund it.

News **04/17/08** **5am** **: 30**

Exercise is the best way to beat fatigue of stress of a cancer diagnosis and its subsequent treatment. Researchers looked at numerous studies involving cancer related fatigue and different exercise programs. Patients who walked for 30 minutes, three to five days a week, reported feeling more rested and better overall. While exercise alone can't cure cancer-related fatigue and other symptoms, researchers say it should be considered as a key part of a patient's recovery along with traditional treatments.

News **04/23/08** **5am** **: 30**

If your asthma is exacerbated by the allergens related to dust mites, a new review of studies suggests there's not much you can do about it. Researchers say frequent vacuuming and laundering mattress, pillow covers and chemical treatments to get rid of dust mites did not reduce their allergens enough to make a difference in asthma symptoms. That held true even if the treatments reduced allergens by more than 90%.

News **04/21/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Could drinking 3 to 5 cups of coffee a day protect sun worshippers from getting skin cancer? A new study showed mice given the equivalent of that much caffeine for several weeks before being exposed to UVB rays appeared to be protected from developing cancer.

Researchers say this may be because caffeine triggers a process in the body where UVB damaged cells are killed off. They say this same process might also be triggered by applying a caffeinated skin cream, but would need to be studied in humans.

News **04/22/08** **6am** **: 30**

Many cancer patients who have undergone chemotherapy have long complained about what they call "chemo brain" including memory and concentration problems associated with their treatment. Now scientists say a common chemo drug, called 5-F-U, maybe an underlying cause of such neurological side effects. In lab and mouse studies, researchers have found the drug can cause healthy brain cells to die off long after treatment has ended. 5-F-U is generally mixed with other chemo drugs to treat cancers of the breast, ovarian, stomach, colon and pancreas.

News **04/23/08** **5am** **: 30**

Taking powerful drugs to treat migraine headaches could lead to chronic migraines. Researchers studied a group of people who reported less than 15 days of headaches a month. People who took drugs like Codeine and Oxycodone at least eight days during a month were twice as likely to have chronic migraines a year later than those who didn't take these drugs. Researchers say these drugs should be strictly limited for migraine patients to prevent more painful and frequent episodes. Simple activities such as brushing one's hair or even wearing earrings and necklaces may be enough to cause pain or extreme sensitivity among some people who suffer from migraine headaches. New research shows migraine sufferers, particularly women, tend to be overly sensitive to touch. 60 to 70% of people who had frequent migraines reported this type of hypersensitivity. People who were also obese or suffered from depression also had higher rates of the condition.

News **04/23/08** **11pm** **: 30**

A new report suggests breathing in smog and air pollution could lead to an early death. The report is from the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council, where scientists reviewed short-term exposure to ozone. They concluded that a high level of smog during a 24-hour period of time is enough to contribute to premature death.

News **04/24/08** **5am** **: 30**

US hospitals have experienced a huge surge in infections that can cause diarrhea and blood poisoning. The infection is called C-Difficile or C-Diff and can be found on bedpans, toilet seats and unwashed hands. A new report found the number of infected hospital patients increased by 200% between 2000 and 2005. By comparison, infections had increased just 74% between 1993 and 2000. Two out of three infected hospital patients in 2005 were elderly.

News **04/25/08** **5am** **: 30**

The area's Vietnamese community is getting information today on health care services and how to stay well. It was the Springfield Vietnamese American Civic Association's annual health fair. Various health care agencies provided information and blood pressure screenings. It allowed attendees to become familiar with area services. This is the sixth year that the civic association has sponsored the health fair.

News **04/25/08** **5am** **: 30**

In health news today, very young children should not take medications that are those intended to alleviate cough and colds. Many drug companies have pulled such medications marketed for children under two off the market anyway. Adding credence to that decision is a new analysis by researchers that finds antihistamines rarely help a child's cough and have too many possible side effects. When a cough is due to seasonal allergies, certain medications were effective in calming it, but most of the time there was no significant difference between the antihistamine and the placebo.

News **04/25/08** **5am** **: 30**

Quitting smoking, adopting a healthier diet and getting plenty of exercise can all lower your risk for a stroke. And according to a new study put more money in your pocket. Researchers say a higher financial status is linked with a lower stroke risk in people between the ages of 50 and 64. They found wealth, meaning, the total of a person's assets, was the biggest predictor of stroke in this age bracket, more than income and education level. The association did not hold, however, after the age of 65.

News **04/25/08** **6pm** **: 30**

Some of your neighbors may be unaware of resources and services available to them right in your community. With that in mind, the Spanish American Union held a health fair today outside their office in Springfield's north end. Social service agencies including WIC and Planned Parenthood gave out informational brochures to residents. The Spanish American Union has been serving Hispanic families in Springfield since 1968.

News **04/26/08** **6am** **: 30**

In health news, Kaiser Permanente demonstrated "health connect," an internet-based health care communications system. The company touts it as, "the worlds largest civilian electronic health record." It also says the system already connects 8.6 million people to their health care teams, their personal information and the latest medical knowledge. An added benefit is what they call an "e-visit," providing tools to interact with their doctors and nurses, while avoiding a trip to the office.

News **04/28/08** **5am** **: 30**

Addressing an epidemic that's effecting many Americans, today in Springfield members of the community discussed obesity and how to prevent it. This afternoon at the YMCA in

Springfield the city launched its Springfield Food Policy Council. The council, funded by the Department of Public Health and other community action groups, seeks to promote healthy eating habits and fitness. Some conference attendees told 22 news battling the problem of obesity is paramount to creating a healthier society. There were workshops on healthy meal preparation, weight management and diabetes awareness.

News **04/29/08** **5am** **: 30**

Blood substitutes have been called a potentially life-saving alternative to the regular blood supply. But new research indicates they may cause more harm than good. National institutes of Health researchers pooled data from 16 human studies of blood substitutes conducted on 3,700 patients. They found those given hemoglobin-based blood substitutes had a nearly three times higher risk for heart attack and a 30% increased risk for death. Researchers speculate the hemoglobin may lead to narrow blood vessels.

News **04/29/08** **11pm** **: 30**

In a recent survey, Americans said they believe health and well-being are a state of mind and most said they're struggling just to maintain. 47% said negative work environments, illnesses and money woes keep them from achieving satisfactory health and well-being. The Gallup health ways well being index also showed another 4% said they're suffering with very little hope for the future. The survey shows 49% of the 100,000 surveyed said they are thriving, indicating they have hope for the future.

News **04/30/08** **5am** **: 30**

A West Springfield pet shop that was shut down for a variety of violations is back in business. Assistant Commissioner for the Dept. of Agricultural Resources Scott Soares says his agency issued a cease and desist order back on March 20th. He says they closed the store because of a variety of violations ranging from poor record keeping, to dogs suffering from different health problems including Parvo Virus. According to the Dept. of Agricultural Resources, Puppy Place shouldn't have reopened yet. Puppy Place attorney Stephen Wald says the court gave the pet shop permission to reopen and that the shop was not shut down because of violations dating back to 2007 which is what Soares said. In the meantime, the MSPCA plans to make a surprise visit to the Puppy Place to make sure the animals are safe.

News **04/30/08** **5am** **: 30**

Exercising and eating right are two ways cancer survivors can improve their quality of life. A new American Cancer Society report indicates few are following that advice. Researchers found 7 out of 10 cancer survivors were not getting enough physical activity, and 8 out of 10 were not meeting the 5 a day fruit and vegetable recommendations. Cancer survivors were, however, less likely to smoke than those without a history of cancer.

News **04/30/08** **6am** **: 30**

A new report indicates two diabetes drugs may increase the risk for broken bones. Researchers followed more than one thousand diabetes patients who were on either Avandia or Actos. They were found to have at least double the risk for hip and other fractures than those not on the medications. Previous studies have suggested a similar elevated risk. Avandia already carries a warning label about the fracture possibilities.

News **05/01/08** **5am** **: 30**

A new survey shows one in four Americans share their prescription drugs with family members and other people. In a survey of 700 people across the country; 23% said they'd shared medicines that had been prescribed to them. Antibiotics, allergy and pain medications were most commonly shared. Experts say this could pose a huge problem if people end up with drugs they're allergic to, or drugs that could interact with other medications they're on.

News **05/01/08** **5am** **: 30**

The stigma associated with mental health problems may hold back some military members and their families from getting the help they need. In a new report from the American Psychiatric Association 61% of military personnel said they thought being treated for a mental health issue would have some negative impact on their career. About a third to half of the respondents expressed common mental health symptoms like trouble sleeping and lack of interest in daily activities.

News **05/02/08** **12pm** **: 30**

The number of measles cases in the U.S. is at the highest they've been in seven years. 64 measles cases have been reported in this country since the beginning of the year. That's the highest number of cases for the same time period since 2001. CDC officials attribute most of the cases to lack of vaccination because of personal or religious belief exemptions. Experts say those who are not vaccinated risk infecting babies under 1 year old; who are too young for the recommended shots. While measles can be quite severe none of these most recent cases resulted in death.

News **05/05/08** **5pm** **: 30**

State health officials report a decline over the past three years in the number of animals in Massachusetts testing positive for rabies. The drop is attributed to several factors, including better vaccination of pets and timelier reporting of wild animals suspected of being rabid. The State Department of Public Health says 152 animals tested positive in 2007, down from 329 in 2005. So far in 2008 seven cats and one dog have tested positive for the disease.

News **05/07/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Spring weather conditions and everyday pollution can make it difficult to breathe for asthma sufferers. Ozone is a major factor in air quality. This gas can be responsible for making the air we breathe unhealthy. Ozone high in the atmosphere actually protects us from dangerous levels of UV radiation, but when we find ozone at the ground, it's a health hazard, affecting

people with asthma, emphysema, and respiratory sensitivities the most. There are two reasons ozone can cause more asthma attacks in the spring and summer. There is so much more outdoor activity, and more sunlight produces more ozone. You see, sunshine reacts with smog from factories, cars, and industry to produce ozone. So longer daylight hours and more intense sun spells out more ozone production. On days when the ozone levels are high, asthmatics are more likely to have difficulty breathing. Ozone irritates the lungs which can cause an attack. But it also makes lungs more sensitive to other irritants like pollen and dust. Air quality reports help us forecast whether there will be high levels of ozone, and alerts will be issued if they are high enough to cause health concerns.

News **05/08/08** **5am** **: 30**

Getting too few or too many zzz's is linked with obesity. A large-scale study from the national center for health statistics finds people who sleep fewer than 6 hours a night had the highest rates of obesity. Sleeping more than 9 hours a night was also linked with higher body mass index. People who got more or less than the average 7-8 hours of shut-eye a night were also more likely to smoke, drink 5 or more alcoholic beverages a day, and lead sedentary lives.

News **05/08/08** **5am** **: 30**

Obesity may also be linked with the risk for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. A review of research suggests obesity increases the relative risk of dementia for both men and women by about 42% when compared with adults at a normal weight. When researchers looked specifically at Alzheimer's disease, the risk shot up to 80%. It wasn't just weight gain that affected the risk. Those who were underweight were also more likely to develop dementia.

News **05/08/08** **12pm** **: 30**

More women are becoming addicted to alcohol. That's according to new research. A review of two large surveys of people born after 1945 finds more and more women are drinking alcohol and becoming addicted to it. Men's alcohol use has remained relatively stable. Researchers attribute the increased use among women to the many cultural changes in this country since the 1940's. White and Hispanic women in particular have increased their alcohol dependence.

News **05/14/08** **5am** **: 30**

The cost of healthcare is going up, right along with gas and food prices. Even insured people are struggling. According to a New York Times survey, even with health insurance many Americans are spending more on medical expenses than on food and housing. The greater cost to the insured comes from a combination of higher premiums, scaled down coverage, and bigger out of pocket deductibles and co-payments. The survey also showed that only 52% say they understand their health insurance coverage. The New York Times reported healthcare spending has gone up 12%, with the average American shelling out 20% of their household income on medical bills

News **05/14/08** **5am** **: 30**

A college education could help you live longer. That's according to a new study that shows a large gap in death rates between Americans who have college education and those who don't. Researchers say the overall death rate decreased significantly from 1992 through 2001 among people with the most education with the largest decrease among black men. The overall death rate among people with less than a high school education actually increased, particularly among white women. Researchers say people with less formal education often have fewer financial resources, less health insurance and health knowledge in general.

News **05/14/08** **12pm** **: 30**

If you find yourself getting headaches at the office, there is a reason. Researchers had office workers perform a series of relaxation and posture exercises every few hours on the job, and placed reminders around their work spaces telling them to avoid contracting the head and shoulder muscles. After 8 months, workers said their head, neck and shoulder pain was cut by about 43%. And their use of painkillers dropped by half.

News **05/14/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A health fair held today in Northampton aims to promote mental health awareness. As a part of mental health month, several human service and community health organizations combined efforts to help connect people with local resources by sponsoring their first annual mental health fair. Organizers say by working together, these agencies provide a total wellness package that includes health related services such as nutrition and exercise counseling in addition to treatment for mental illness.

News **05/14/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A new survey has found that the number of Massachusetts high schools students using drugs and alcohol dropped for the 6th year in a row. But, the 2007 health and risk behaviors of Massachusetts youth study also found that nearly half of all teens drink. A quarter use marijuana and nearly one-fifth smoke cigarettes. 73% of high school students said they had at least one alcoholic drink in their lifetime, down from 81% in 2001. And 46% of students tried smoking last year, down from 62% in 2001.

News **05/14/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A new survey finds that more than half of all insured Americans are taking medications for chronic conditions. The most widely used drugs are those to lower high blood pressure and cholesterol, problems often linked to heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Experts say the data reflected in the Medco health study does not indicate worsening public health, but instead reflects better medicines for chronic conditions and more aggressive treatment by doctors

News **05/16/08** **5am** **: 30**

A new study is giving some hope to breast cancer patients in very advanced stages of the disease. The study suggests a combination of two new generation cancer drugs modestly delayed the time it took for the disease to worsen in 300 women who had stopped responding to other treatments. It was the first test of these two highly targeted drugs, Herceptin and Tykerb. In the study, women getting the combination survived 12 weeks without their cancer worsening compared to eight weeks for those receiving Tykerb alone.

News **05/16/08** **5am** **: 30**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends people over age 60 get the vaccine to protect against shingles. Anyone who had the chicken pox as a kid is at risk which translates into about 95% of adults. Shingles is an extremely painful condition marked by clusters of blisters. The risk of shingles related complications increases after age 60. Merck manufactures the vaccine, called Zostavax. Studies show it can reduce the occurrence of shingles by about 50%.

News **05/16/08** **5pm** **: 30**

A local health agency is offering free confidential HIV testing. Tapestry Health will be offering rapid HIV testing from its mobile health van parked in downtown Northampton. The test does not require a blood sample. Instead it uses a small oral swab. And results are provided in only 20 minutes. Tapestry health's mobile van will be parked in front of the Unitarian Church on Main Street in Northampton until 7PM and from 10AM to 4PM on Saturday. Free T-shirts will be given to everyone who is tested.

News **06/12/08** **Noon** **: 30**

Life expectancy has jumped above age 78, on average, for the first time. Evidence that all the efforts to improve Americans' health may be paying off: Infant mortality rates have dropped to an all-time low, and Americans are living longer. Women are living 5-6 years longer on average than men. White women are living to 81, on average. African American women are living to 77. White men are living to 76, but only to 70 for African American men. In 2006, there were 22,000 fewer deaths than in 2005. Fewer Americans are dying from the most common causes, including influenza and pneumonia deaths down 13%, deaths associated with strokes down 6.4%, heart disease fatalities down 5.5%, diabetes-related deaths down 5.3%, and cancer down 1.6%. Obesity remains a problem. Alzheimer's has now overtaken diabetes as the 6th leading cause of death in 2006, claiming nearly 73,000 lives.

News **06/12/08** **11pm** **: 30**

The food and drug administration came under fire today for failing to put its food protection plan into operation. The recent salmonella outbreak led Congress to take a closer look at the nation's food safety. In government labs, scientists are still working, testing tomatoes, methodically trying to isolate the origin of the recent salmonella outbreak.

News **06/12/08** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield has been targeted as one of the five Massachusetts cities that are about to undergo a stepped up AIDS testing program aimed at the black communities. There's concern among Massachusetts public health experts about the disproportionate number of African-Americans who have the HIV/AIDS virus. According to a report issued today, African-Americans account for 6% of the Baystate's population, but almost one out of three of them are infected.

News **06/13/08** **6am** **: 30**

Parents who allow their child to sleep with them, even for part of the night, may leave moms and dads yawning when the sun comes up. Parents whose children spent any time in their bed reported a poorer quality of sleep compared to parents who slept alone. Parents who wanted to co-sleep had more problems sleeping than the parents who reluctantly shared their bed.

News **06/13/08** **SUN7am** **: 30**

Yesterday, local cancer patients were able to learn about their illness with their families by their side. Mount Holyoke College hosted the annual "We Can Weekend." The retreat features workshops hosted by area doctors and other cancer experts. The weekend focuses on dealing with the disease from a family perspective.

News **06/13/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Past studies have shown coffee could potentially increase the risk for heart disease, but new information shows that might not be the case. 25% of women involved in a major study about coffee and its effects on the heart had a lower risk of death from heart disease. 18% had a lower risk of dying of something else, like cancer. Like many other things, coffee in moderation won't pose long-term health problems.

News **06/13/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Major fast food chains and restaurants are taking tomatoes off the menu due to salmonella concerns, and they're not the only ones. Other local eateries are following suit. Cote's Family Restaurant in Chicopee got rid of their tomatoes after learning that 228 people in 23 states have become ill resulting from a salmonella outbreak. Owner Michael Cote says they're offering tomato-free dishes to protect their customers.

News **06/14/08** **6am** **: 30**

Probiotics is a type of bacteria commonly called "friendly bacteria." Now the special strains are being added into all kinds of products: in yogurt, cottage cheese, and cereal. Nutritionist Lisa Drayer has been keeping a careful eye on the emerging body of research on probiotics.

She says yes, studies show they can boost immunity, ward off infections and ease symptoms of lactose intolerance, but you have to read containers carefully because each bacteria has a different effect. Activia Yogurt, as an example, contains a specific strain for a specific gastro intestinal problem. Dannon's other product Dan-Active has a different strain and comes with a different claim. Activia brought in \$130,000,000 in sales for Dannon in its first year, 200 in its second. Dannon is facing a class-action lawsuit over its health claims. Those suing agree there is research that backs up certain benefits of probiotics, but argue sweeping claims are deceptive.

News **06/15/08** **7am** **: 30**

McDonald's says it will begin serving sliced tomatoes again after the multi-state salmonella outbreak, causing the world's largest restaurant chain to yank the fruit from its sandwiches. Spokeswoman Danya Proud said that the fast food chain will reintroduce sliced tomatoes in the next seven to 10 days. 228 illnesses in 23 states were linked to salmonella-tainted tomatoes.

News **06/16/08** **6am** **: 30**

Research in chocolate can lead to better treatments for colon cancer. Researchers say a synthetic chemical based on a compound found in cocoa beans was able to slow down tumor growth and even destroy some tumor cells. The biggest effect was seen in colon cancer cells. The next step is to study the chemical's effects in lab animals.

News **06/16/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Aerobic activity may help you sleep more soundly, according to a new study where researchers tested the effects of moderate and heavy aerobics, and strength training on 28 people suffering from chronic insomnia. Those who did moderate aerobic activity said they were able to fall asleep more quickly, didn't wake up as much during the night, and even had a slight decrease in anxiety levels. Although the study was small, researchers say it does indicate medications aren't the only option for people suffering from insomnia.

News **06/17/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A hospital building boom and paying for people without medical insurance are driving up the cost of healthcare. A new study released today by Price-Waterhouse-Coopers shows employer health care costs are expected to go up 10% this year and another 10% next year. That increase is likely to be passed on to you. Many employers are using wellness, prevention, and disease management programs to try and keep their workers healthy.

News **06/17/08** **6am** **: 30**

Depression, and possibly the medications used to treat it appear to increase the risk for potentially dangerous falls in older people. A new study finds seniors taking anti-depressants were 50% more likely to fall than their healthy peers. The risk was especially great in those

taking SSRI's, the most commonly prescribed anti-depressant. Researchers say doctors should be aware of these potential risks when diagnosing depression in seniors, and offer fall prevention strategies like leg strengthening and balance training.

News **06/18/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts politicians are pressing federal officials to move quickly and renew a Medicaid waiver program that will expire at the end of the month. State officials consider the three-year waiver vital to keeping the state's universal health insurance program on track. Gov. Deval Patrick and senior aides to Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy plan to meet Friday with the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Under the existing agreement, the state receives \$600 million annually to help support the new health insurance program.

News **06/19/08** **6am** **: 30**

The food and drug administration has approved a device that could help many paralyzed people breathe on their own for several hours. Back in 2003, the electronic device was tested on actor Christopher Reeve. Reeve was just the third patient to receive the experimental procedure. It's called "diaphragm-pacing" and involves attaching electrodes to the diaphragm through small incisions. A control box outside the body sends signals causing the diaphragm to contract, sucking air into the lungs. The experiment let Reeve breathe on his own for 15 minutes. Today, patients are able to breathe for at least 4 hours a day.

News **06/19/08** **6am** **: 30**

Vitamin D may help extend the lives of patients battling colon cancer. New research from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute finds patients who had higher levels of Vitamin D in their blood were less likely to die than patients who were deficient. The study included data from more than 300 colon cancer patients whose blood levels of Vitamin D were measured two years before their diagnosis. While this study is promising, researchers say it's far too early to recommend Vitamin D supplements for colon cancer patients.

News **06/20/08** **6am** **: 30**

More and more Americans are being diagnosed with asthma. A new report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality finds an increasing number of adults admitted to the hospital for any reason also have asthma as an underlying condition. The number of hospitalized patients who also had asthma increased 113% from 2000 and 2005. The number of people hospitalized specifically for asthma-related reasons increased 18%.

News **06/20/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

In Connecticut, State health officials say a batch of mosquitoes trapped in Stonington has become the first to test positive for West Nile virus this year. The mosquitoes were caught June 11, much earlier in the year than usual. The first mosquitoes to test positive for the virus

in 2007 were found in Manchester on June 27th. West Nile virus has been found in birds, animals and mosquitoes in nine other states this year alone. Human cases have been reported in five states, but none in Connecticut.

News **06/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

It appears community outreach programs are successfully educating African American women about breast cancer. Previous studies have shown that African American women are more likely to die from breast cancer than white women, often because they tend to be diagnosed at a later stage. Researchers from Emory University wanted to see if outreach and educational programs promoting mammograms and self-exams were making a difference. In a study of 10,000 women enrolled in these programs, the number of women diagnosed at the earliest stage doubled, while the number diagnosed at the most advanced stage was cut in half during a three year period.

News **06/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

The dramatic weight loss that accompanies stomach-reduction surgeries appears to be key in improving type 2 diabetes afterward. Severe cases of diabetes, in morbidly obese people, often go into remission or at least greatly improve after gastric bypass. Previous studies have indicated that changes in the way hormones are secreted from the gut and pancreas could be the cause. But researchers at Duke University Medical Center say patients who lost the most weight had the greatest success and were able to get off their diabetes medications.

News **06/23/08** **6am** **: 30**

A new study finds employees who work overtime suffer from higher anxiety and depression compared to employees who work 40 hours or less. The study looked at questionnaires filled out by over 10,000 Norwegian workers. Depression was reported by 13% of men working overtime, compared to 9% of men working normal hours. Researchers say the largest link between overtime and anxiety and depression was found among men who worked 100 hours a week. These men had higher rates of manual labor and shift work.

News **06/26/08** **6am** **: 30**

Researchers at Albert Einstein College of Medicine have identified a new gene that is linked to late-onset Alzheimer's disease. They looked in an area of the brain associated with the disease call the hippocampus. They found a variant of this gene was found more often in people with Alzheimer's than those without the disease. This is only the second gene that has been universally linked to Alzheimer's.

News **06/27/08** **6am** **: 30**

Researchers say they have found a promising new drug to treat Marfan Syndrome, a genetic disease affecting the body's connective tissue. A small clinical study found the drug Losartan,

or Cozaar, was able to slow down the enlargement of the aorta, which is the most life threatening symptom of the condition.

News

06/27/08

6am

: 30

Rotavirus, marked by severe vomiting and diarrhea, sends hundreds of thousands of children to the doctor each year, but it appears a new vaccine recommended for infants at two, four, and six months old may be working. The CDC reports the 'rotavirus season' began at the end of February this year instead of the usual November, and the number of doctor visits was substantially reduced. The CDC says these results are greater than expected, but will continue to monitor the impact of the vaccine over time.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 2nd quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/08/08 11pm : 30

Seasonal workers may be in demand, but soon many Americans may be looking for work. Last month, 80,000 jobs were lost, and economists are expecting more cuts in the future. Analysts believe the jobless rate may peak at around 6 percent early next year.

News 04/08/08 11pm : 30

A shortage in seasonal workers could hit Bay State businesses hard in the coming summer months. Now the state is trying to help businesses on Cape Cod and the Islands find workers by holding a series of job fairs. Many businesses in the tourist region rely on foreign workers to fill seasonal jobs, and fear a change in Visa rules will leave fewer workers available this summer.

News 04/09/08 6pm : 30

In Easthampton, the Northeast Center for Youth and Families held its annual career fair at the Tri-County School gym. The career fair targets people from 16 to 25, who are just entering the work-force or will be graduating from high school or college. Plenty of people turned out to explore their options. Some of the 25 vendors taking part in today's career fair included Easthampton Savings Bank, Six Flags New England, Stop and Shop and the U.S. Military.

News 04/09/08 6pm : 30

In Western Massachusetts jobs are made harder to come by, but a local college provided a clearing house for employment opportunities. Hundreds of Springfield area college students had their resumes in hand for potential employers during the job fair at Springfield Technical Community College. One student says he's working hard to find the right job. He is hoping his luck will change. Job opportunities offered at the fair included positions from medical centers, hotels, insurance companies, and many other organizations.

News 04/16/08 11pm : 30

The non profit group "Dress for Success" believes if you look good, you'll feel good. Self confidence plays a strong role in women looking to ace an interview for a new job. Some women say a new suit can be empowering, allowing them to take charge of their life.

News 04/17/08 5am : 30

At Chicopee High School students know their job search won't be easy this year. Employment experts say they can blame a struggling economy. There's concern that many companies, especially retailers, will scale back on summer help. That trend is already present locally according to Future Works Career Center; the number of job openings posted in March fell 24% from last year.

News **04/18/08** **6am** **: 30**

Nearly 100 residents of a Springfield nursing home are looking for a new place to live. Marathon Healthcare Center on Pine Street is closing. The Connecticut based company's spokesman Bill Neagus says the occupancy rate was too low to support the facility. This also means more than 100 employees will be out of a job. Residents told us they're scrambling to find a new home and staffers.

News **04/18/08** **6am** **: 30**

A husband and wife from Amherst are among the finalists for Greenfield's Interim School Superintendent job. Officials say Helen Vivian and Alton Sprague applied as a team who would share the duties and salary if picked. They're competing against Gordon Noseworthy of Northampton. They're all former superintendents of other school districts.

News **04/18/08** **5pm** **: 30**

The city of Holyoke celebrates the re-opening of a printing business that abruptly shut down this winter. 15 people lost their jobs when Mansir Holden closed. Those former employees have been rehired. The company also has a new management team. Tom Early remembers the day he lost his job at Mansir Holden back in January. Mansir's partners say high overhead costs played a role in the closing. But it's a new day at the Holyoke printing business. They have a new name, Mansir Printing, new management, plus Early and several other former employees got their jobs back. Now Mansir Printing is taking a shot again at long term success. There are 15 employees at Mansir Printing now. Management expects that number to eventually grow to about 100.

News **04/18/08** **5pm** **: 30**

William Fitchet was officially sworn in as Springfield Police Commissioner. He's twice served as the city's acting commissioner, been passed over for the top cop job, but after 35 years on the force, Bill Fitchet is officially the top cop. Flanked by elected officials and his wife Shirley, Fitchet took the oath of office at City Stage in front of a crowd of supporters, local law enforcement members and the Springfield Police Department rank and file. The commissioner addressed the audience, describing this day as the pinnacle of his career. Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett remarked this is a big battle the department has long been working to win especially as of late. This got the biggest reaction from the crowd. DA Bennett referring to Fitchett's predecessor, Ed Flynn who left to take a job in the Brew City.

News **04/30/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Employers will be at Future Works Career Centers for a job fair today looking for new hires. 17 employers will be looking to hire at the Future Works Career Center's job fair, including: Big Y, C&S Wholesale Grocers and Yankee Candle among others. The job fair will be held at Future Works, in the STCC Technology Park at 1 Federal Street in Springfield.

News **05/01/08** **12pm** **: 30**

With more than one hundred teachers retiring from the Springfield school system this year; the district is desperate to fill dozens of crucial positions. The school district held a job fair; trying to recruit a balance of both new and veteran teachers. Springfield is looking for teachers who specialize in almost every field including: Math, Guidance, Intervention, Special Education and more. The district is looking to hire about 250 employees by September.

News **05/02/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Those summer jobs can be hard to come by for teens. But some Holyoke students got some help in their search. Career Point, in partnership with Dean Technical High School, held a job fair for students looking for summer work or full time work, if they'll be graduating. There were 24 area employers at the job fair. Teens who attended say it was helpful. About 450 Holyoke teens attended the job fair.

News **05/16/08** **12pm** **: 30**

Just before his visit to 22news, the Governor was at the Dunbar Community Center in Springfield to announce hundreds of thousands of dollars that will help 400 at risk youth get jobs this summer. \$750,000 dollars in funds will go to Hampden County. The area received more money than any others in the state, except Boston.

News **05/16/08** **12pm** **: 30**

In Franklin County, 40 more teachers could lose their job as a result of a budget gap in Greenfield. At the school committee meeting, the superintendent said the shortfall could be more than they anticipated. An audit revealed the gap is a result of sloppy bookkeeping. 12 teachers have already been laid off. Almost every teacher will receive a pink slip that could mean they will not have a job next year.

News **05/20/08** **5am** **: 30**

It seems like the price of everything keeps going up these days, except salaries, which is forcing more people to find second jobs. With a sluggish economy, consumers are finding themselves getting less for their dollar at the pumps and at the supermarket, yet their paychecks aren't growing any bigger. That's forcing more people to look for additional employment. Career Point in Holyoke has seen a 5%-10% increase in job seekers, while the number of job openings has dropped at about the same rate. The agency's executive director says tough economic times are changing the way people look for jobs and negotiate pay.

David Gadaire says they're going after anything they can get, as long as they can ultimately afford to make ends meet.

News **05/22/08** **5pm** **: 30**

Western Massachusetts' tough times create more of a need for employment... And yesterday job seekers crowded the 5th annual career fair at the Martin Luther King Community Center in Springfield. Dozens of area companies and agencies were looking to hire some much needed help with MassMutual and Baystate Medical Center among those seeking employees. Job seekers told 22news they've heard good things about finding work at this event. This year's event is their largest so far in terms of job applicants and employers.

News **05/27/08** **5pm** **: 30**

The sluggish economy is making it harder and harder for local teens to find summer jobs. Many teens and parents are finding that the declining job market has started a troubling trend. Right now more and more adults are landing jobs that in the past were traditionally filled by teenagers. 22news spoke with one teen who would settle for any seasonal job, let alone the ideal one. Some experts say approximately 90% of job openings go unadvertised, so teens need to keep in touch with friends and relatives about any unexpected employment opportunities.

News **06/13/08** **SAT6am** **: 30**

The U.S. economy continues to shed jobs. The latest monthly declines fueled steep declines on Friday. Payrolls fell by 49,000 in May, the 5th straight month of declines. The jobless rate increased by half a point to 5.5%, higher than every forecast in a Bloomberg survey. A rally Thursday, helped by retailers posting stronger than expected sales and an unexpected fall in jobless claims, could not stem the weekly slide. Lehman Brothers could report what may be its first quarterly loss since going public in 1994, and is reported to be in talks to raise as much as \$5 billion this coming week.

News **06/17/08** **NOON** **: 30**

The job you choose in your early 20's could have an effect on your mental sharpness during your retirement years. A Duke University study found people who worked jobs that were intellectually demanding were more likely to have better memory and cognitive skills later in life. This was regardless of how educated or intelligent the person was. Physically demanding jobs, like manual labor, were associated with a decrease in cognitive skills post-retirement.

News **06/18/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Local business leaders learn about the state of our region's labor market. The Regional Employment Board of Hampden County held an employer conference today at Western New England College. A panel of industry experts highlighted the need for specific job skills for workers and industries in our region. The state's secretary of labor and workforce

development says workers who want to advance in their field should consider getting some additional training.

News **06/19/08** **6am** **: 30**

More companies expect to cut jobs in the coming months. Rising fuel prices and continued fallout from the mortgage crisis could land more people on the unemployment line. A new survey finds 31%, nearly one-third, of chief executives say they are planning to cut costs by cutting payrolls. That's up from 22% who said they were planning to cut jobs in a similar survey in April.

News **06/19/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

According to the Employment Policies Institute, African-American teen unemployment is nearly 6 times the national average and almost twice as high as other teens. Their research shows that increasing the minimum wage destroys jobs for low-skilled workers. The Director of Springfield's Urban League says a lack of jobs for teens can put them at risk for dangerous behaviors.

News **06/20/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Legislative leaders are rejecting recommendations from a special panel that would significantly raise their salaries. House Speaker Sal DiMasi said in a statement that he and Gov. Deval Patrick could not accept a pay hike at a time when many state programs are being cut. The Boston Globe reported that a review board would recommend that the speaker and Senate President receive 70% pay raises. The plan would hike the governor's annual salary 19% to \$175,000, and state judges would get a 25% increase also. The review board was created by the Legislature last year.

News **06/20/08** **NOON** **: 30**

A lot more people find themselves unemployed in the Baystate. State figures released today say the unemployment rate rose from 4.1% in April to 4.9% in May. That's still below the nation's unemployment rate, which climbed to 5.5% from 5% in April. At Career Point in Holyoke directors say a survey of households in Massachusetts found a 37,500 person decrease in residents with jobs last month, and a 25,400 person increase in those without jobs.

News **06/20/08** **NOON** **: 30**

Some big changes are in store for the Greenfield School District. That massive deficit is an issue the district has been fighting for awhile now and at a recent committee meeting they amended a plan that fill that gap. It was decided that North Parish School and Four Corners Middle School will close their doors for good. Pre-kindergarten students will now head to the Newton Street School and those from Four Corners will be divided between Federal Street

Elementary and the current middle school. In addition to the closing, 51 jobs will be cut from the district. Teachers who woke-up to the news this morning were devastated.

News **06/24/08** **NOON** **: 30**

United Airlines announced it will lay off 950 pilots by the end of the summer. The cuts are just one more way the Chicago based airline is trying to deal with soaring fuel prices. It's also eliminating up to 1,600 salaried and management jobs. United says it's talking with its pilots union, looking for ways to lessen the impact of the job cuts. Options include offering pilots voluntary leaves of absence and preserving their seniority and benefits while they leave the company.

News **06/26/08** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Rising unemployment rates are making the pool of job seekers even more competitive. Despite a tough economy and rising unemployment rates, today in Holyoke, job seekers were able to find out about a number of employment opportunities in the area. Filling out applications, talking face to face with recruiters, and possibly landing a job, were on the minds of people at the Greater Holyoke Job Fair. Hosted by Career Point and the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, the job fair at the Holyoke Mall featured an assortment of companies looking for that right employee. If you weren't able to make it to today's job fair, Career Point advises job seekers to visit their Holyoke office to check out what opportunities are in your area.

News **06/27/08** **NOON** **: 30**

200 employees of Foxwoods Resort Casino have lost their jobs. The casino laid off middle managers and some hourly employee as part of what a spokesperson says is a 'strategic organizational review' that began in January. The job cuts are believed to be the first in the casinos 16 year history. Foxwoods employs about 10,000 people at its casinos. The workers were let go Thursday and will get two weeks severance pay for each year they were employed up to 13 years, as well as health benefits.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Smoking during the 2nd quarter of 2008. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/02/08 11pm : 30

Researchers now have an explanation for why some smokers never develop Lung Cancer and how others can smoke casually without becoming addicted. Three new studies identify a genetic variant on Chromosome 15 that appears to make smokers more susceptible to nicotine addiction, Lung Cancer and Peripheral Artery Disease. For example, a smoker whose parents both passed on this genetic variation has an 80 percent greater chance of developing Lung Cancer than a smoker without the variation.

News 04/05/08 11pm : 30

The American Lung Association of Massachusetts celebrated bringing clean smoke-free air in along with the spring season. At the annual "Breath of Spring" Ball, the American Lung Association recognized support and donations made by individuals and businesses. Baystate Health, Smith and Wesson and Big Y were honored for becoming smoke free workplaces. The American Lung Association's mission is to help promote lung health and prevent lung disease.

News 04/09/08 11pm : 30

A new study from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention finds women who smoke anytime in the months before they conceive and throughout their first trimester of pregnancy; are more likely to give birth to children with heart defects than women who do not smoke. Researchers found more heart problems among the heavier smokers. These congenital heart defects can range from a hole in the heart to several different kinds of blockages. Experts say many of these infants are at risk of dying within their first year of life. They often require surgeries to correct the abnormalities. Smoking during pregnancy also increases the risk of miscarriage, SIDS and other birth defects, according to researchers.

News 04/11/08 6pm : 30

The house lawmakers have approved a package of tax hikes including a dollar increase on a pack of cigarettes. The tax would generate an estimated \$175,000,000 dollars and would go into effect in July if the bill becomes law. Supporters say the cigarette tax would deter smoking; critics say raising taxes doesn't make sense in a recession.

News 05/05/08 5pm : 30

The cost of cigarettes is on rise. New state legislation may boost cigarette prices, but right now a tobacco company is raising them nationwide. The largest US tobacco company, Altria Group is raising prices on some of its top-selling cigarette brands. And cutting discounts to

distributors to cover higher costs. Brands affected include Marlboro, L&M, Parliament, and Virginia Slims. The price changes go into effect today. A pack of cigarettes could cost a dollar more if new legislation is passed here in Massachusetts. So far, it has the stamp of approval from the House. The bill hits the Senate floor tomorrow and a spokesperson for the governor told us today he is inclined to support it.

News **05/15/08** **12pm** **: 30**

In a new survey about the number of Baystate teens using drugs and alcohol: a study by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health found that that number dropped for the sixth straight year in a row. But the same study also found that nearly a quarter of teens use marijuana and nearly one-fifth smoke cigarettes.

News **05/23/08** **5am** **: 30**

More and more states are passing laws making it illegal to smoke where other people work such as in restaurants and bars. Between 2005 and 2007 the number of states with such prohibitions tripled, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and prevention. The study focused on private sector worksites, restaurants and bars where employees are at high risk of secondhand smoke exposure. While many states at least restrict smoking, such as allowing it only in designated areas or ventilated places, 8 still states have no restrictions.

News **06/16/08** **6am** **: 30**

Although cigarette smoking causes an estimated 90% of lung cancer cases, some patients have never smoked. A new study of nearly a half million Americans finds women who have never smoked appear to be at a slightly higher risk of developing lung cancer than men who've never smoked. The risk was about the same for both men and women who did smoke, however. People who smoked about two packs a day were about 50 times more likely to develop lung cancer than non-smokers.

News **06/27/08** **NOON** **: 30**

A study by the Centers for Disease Control showed 36% of teens said they used cigarettes in 1997. That number dropped to 22% in 2003, and hasn't changed since. There were some positive findings: smoking among African American girls dropped from 17% in 1991 to 8% in 2007. Also, fewer students say they've tried smoking.